

EXTERIOR ACCESSORY MODULE FOR VEHICULAR MODULAR DOOR

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An exterior accessory assembly or module for a vehicle door assembly comprises an exterior rearview mirror and/or door cap assembly, which may further include a cover member, a door handle, window frame, window seal and/or an exterior rearview mirror assembly. The vehicle door assembly includes a door frame, which includes a cap and/or mirror mounting region, a lock and/or latch mechanism, a mirror connector, electronic controls, regulators, trim pieces, and/or the like, and is mountable to a vehicle at the vehicle assembly plant as a single unit. The exterior rearview mirror and/or the cap assembly may mount to the modular door and provide an exterior rearview mirror, a window frame and/or door handle. The latch and/or mirror connectors provide for connection to the handle and/or mirror assembly, respectively, of the accessory module as the accessory module is affixed to the door frame. Preferably, the exterior mirror and/or cap assembly and door frame include corresponding electrical connectors for connecting electrical accessories of the accessory module to a door wiring or harness. Preferably, the exterior accessory module and the and the connectors for the door assembly are correspondingly formed to easily snap or otherwise secure together, such that the mirror and/or cap assembly may be snapped to the modular door, with the components of the cap assembly, such as an exterior mirror assembly, window frame and seals, and/or door handle, also being snapped or otherwise easily attached to their respective mounts or connectors. Preferably, the door assembly is assembled at a door assembly plant remote from a vehicle assembly plant or optionally on a door assembly line adjacent to and coordinated with the vehicle assembly line within the vehicle assembly plant, while the exterior mirror and/or cap assembly is assembled remote from the door assembly plant and affixed to an appropriate door at the door or vehicle assembly line or plant, before or after the door assembly is mounted at the vehicle as the vehicle moves along the assembly line.